

FEMA REGION 6 SPOT REPORT #9

Updates in RED

SPOT REPORT: Explosion at West Fertilizer Plant (West, Texas)

DATE AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE: April 17, 2013 at approximately 19:50 CDT

INCIDENT SUMMARY: An explosion was caused by a fire at the West Fertilizer Plant in West, TX (McLennan County, 19 miles north of Waco- Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/rKk1u>):

- Local Officials report the remains of 12 individuals were recovered from the blast area as of Friday, 19 April.
- Healthcare facilities have treated 228 patients; 46 are currently admitted with the majority being in Hillcrest and Providence Hospitals.
- The following damages have been reported:
 - 50 structures destroyed
 - 50 structures with significant damage
 - 100 structures with slight damage
 - An apartment complex was destroyed (30-50 units)
- Due to health and safety concerns, evacuation of a significant portion of the community was conducted.
- Oncor Electric facilities were impacted by the explosion and some customers are unable to receive power because power restoration is hazardous in some places.
- There will be no gas or electric service for the blast area until search and rescue and initial recovery actions are completed.
- A boil water notice is in place.
- Abbott High School and the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Recreational Center are the two shelters currently available. Shelters population undetermined at this time.
- Local media has reported that Connally ISD (south of West ISD) is making plans to provide facilities, transportation, nutrition and other necessities for West ISD so students can resume classes as soon as possible. Other school districts are combining supplies, furniture, personnel and other needs to West ISD students. Plans are still in progress at this time.

ESF 6 Report:

- Texas Salvation Army: Continues to provide five (5) feeding canteens for West.
- American Red Cross has four (4) ERVs and three (3) chapter vehicles providing canteen services within West.

Concerns:

- Potential weather information and on any conditions that could affect operations (i.e. wind shifts).

SIGNIFICANCE OF EVENT:

High

SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

FEMA R6 Logistics and Operations, Department of Health and Human Services, FEMA Region 6 JRMPO Rep, State of Texas Operations Center SOC), FEMA R6 National Preparedness Law Enforcement Liaison, FEMA R6 External Affairs

**ACTIONS/
FOLLOW UP:**

State Actions:

- **Requested an Emergency Declaration as a result of the West Fertilizer Plant Explosion in West, Texas. Governor Perry has requested Public Assistance Categories A and B, and Direct Federal Assistance for McLennan County.**
- The SOC is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in support of the Fertilizer Plant Explosion.
- **State Fire Marshall's Office (SFMO):** is the lead investigation agency for Texas; SFMO staff is on-site and partnering with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to conduct a joint investigation of the incident.
- **Texas Department of Insurance (TDI):** The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) is providing assistance through the SFMO, its Consumer Protection resources, and the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) to assist those affected by the incident.
- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ continues to monitor air quality around the perimeter of the West Fertilizer Plant. At this time no ammonia is being detected in the air outside the plant footprint.
- **Texas Military Forces (TXMF):** 6th Civil Support Team (CST) resources continues to monitor for airborne hazards around the west the perimeter of the fertilizer plant.
- **Disaster District (DDC) Waco:** The DDC is fully activated, identifying needed resources and providing coordination of state resources assigned to the DDC. DDC Waco will conduct 24-hour operations through the night, and into the next operational period.
- **Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):** The DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) has been activated. The Family Assistance Center was established. Three Ambusses and a Mobile Morgue Unit have been demobilized.

- **Texas Task Force 1 & 2 (TTF1 and TTF2):** TTF1 Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Type I Team to include Damage Assessment Personnel for collapse structure assessment have been deployed. A Search and Rescue K-9 Team has also been deployed. TTF2 Type III Search and Rescue Task Force have also been deployed. SAR personnel are conducting primary and secondary searches in the affected area.
- **Communication Coordination Group (CCG):** AT&T to provide cellular on wheels (COW) to provide additional cellular communications capability.

Federal Actions:

- FEMA Regional Administrator in communication with Chief of Texas Division of Emergency Management
- FEMA Regional Administrator and EPA Regional Administrator are in communication.
- **FEMA R6 Recovery processed the State's Emergency Declaration request and forwarded it to the Declarations Unit at FEMA HQ.**
- The National Response Team (NRT) of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, a National Criminal Enforcement Response Team (NCERT) and a criminal investigative team from the EPA will be deploying to support the investigation of the explosion of the fertilizer plant.
- EPA has their EOC activated and has personnel on-site.
 - Currently conducting air monitoring
 - Once search and rescue efforts are completed, EPA will be prepared to conduct hazardous materials removals and ensure the area is safe (when approved).
- **FEMA R6 RRCC has transitioned to Normal Operations as of approximately 1700 CDT.**
 - FEMA R6 Recovery has 3 (three) IA PDA teams on standby and are coordinating with SBA
 - FEMA R6 Recovery has identified PA PDA teams, if requested
 - IMAT 2 on stand-by to deploy if requested by the state
 - Pre-designated Federal Coordinating Officer identified.
- Distribution Center Ft. Worth current Readiness:
 - Water (liters): 3,124,890
 - Commercial Meals (ea): 659,458
 - Reduced Sodium Meals (ea): 869,224
 - Infant Toddler Kits (ea): 0
 - Hygiene/Comfort Kits (ea): 50,000
 - Cots (ea): 31,836
 - Blankets (ea): 208,492
 - Consumable Medical Supplies (ea): 2
 - Durable Medical Equipment (ea): 4
 - Tarps (20'x25'): 135,080
 - Generators (ea): 101

PREPARED BY:

RRCC R6 Planning Section
Billy Rhodes, Situation Unit Leader
940 898 5257